

HB 1298-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides for dental hygienist employment by health care facilities and sealant programs in schools.

Provides that a dental hygienist employed or retained to perform services under this act in a senior center must, before providing services: (1) Enter into a written practice arrangement plan, approved by the department, with a dentist licensed in this state, under which the dentist will provide off-site supervision of the dental services provided. This agreement does not create an obligation for the dentist to accept referrals of patients receiving services under the program;

(2) Collect data on the patients treated by dental hygienists under the program, including age, treatments rendered, insurance coverage, if any, and patient referral to dentists. This data must be submitted to the department of health at the end of each annual quarter, commencing October 1, 2007; and

(3) Obtain information from the patient's primary health care provider about any health conditions of the patient that would be relevant to the provision of preventive dental care. The information may be obtained by the dental hygienist's direct contact with the provider or through a written document from the provider that the patient presents to the dental hygienist.

Provides that a dental hygienist participating in a program under RCW 18.29.056 that involves providing services at senior centers, as defined in RCW 18.29.056, or under RCW 18.29.220 that involves removing deposits and stains from the surfaces of teeth in a community-based sealant program must:

(1) Provide the patient or, if the patient is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the patient, if reasonably available, with written information that includes at least the following: (a) a notice that the treatment being given under the program is not a comprehensive oral health care service, but is provided as a preventive service only; and (b) a recommendation that the patient should be examined by a licensed dentist for comprehensive oral health care services; and

(2) Assist the patient in obtaining a referral for further dental planning and treatment, including providing a written description of methods and sources by which a patient may obtain a referral, if needed, to a dentist, and a list of licensed dentists in the community.

Directs the secretary of health, in consultation with representatives of dental hygienists and dentists, to provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by

December 1, 2008, that: (1) Provides a summary of the information about patients receiving dental services in senior centers that is collected under RCW 18.29.056(1)(c)(ii), and in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools under RCW 18.29.220, and describing the dental health outcomes, including both effects on dental health and adverse incidents, if any, related to the services these patients receive under the programs; and

(2) Makes recommendations, as appropriate, with regard to the services that could be appropriately provided by dental hygienists in senior centers and community-based sealant programs carried out in schools, and the effects on dental health of patients treated.